

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 638

To amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994  
to improve efforts to reduce gang activity and violent crime.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 23, 2007

Mr. JINDAL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on the Judiciary

---

## A BILL

To amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement  
Act of 1994 to improve efforts to reduce gang activity  
and violent crime.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Violent Crime Reduc-  
5       tion Act of 2007”.



1 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF AND ASSISTANCE FOR HIGH-IN-**  
2 **TENSITY INTERSTATE GANG ACTIVITY**  
3 **AREAS.**

4 Title XV of the Violent Crime Control and Law En-  
5 forcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C 14061 et seq.) is amend-  
6 ed by adding at the end the following new section:

7 **“SEC. 150010. DESIGNATION OF AND ASSISTANCE FOR**  
8 **HIGH-INTENSITY INTERSTATE GANG ACTIV-**  
9 **ITY AREAS.**

10 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the following  
11 definitions shall apply:

12 “(1) GOVERNOR.—The term ‘Governor’ means  
13 a Governor or other chief executive officer of a State  
14 or the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

15 “(2) HIGH-INTENSITY INTERSTATE GANG AC-  
16 TIVITY AREA.—The term ‘high-intensity interstate  
17 gang activity area’ means a specified area within one  
18 or more States that is designated as a high-intensity  
19 interstate gang activity area under subsection (b)(1).

20 “(3) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means a State  
21 of the United States, the District of Columbia, and  
22 any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the  
23 United States.

24 “(b) HIGH-INTENSITY INTERSTATE GANG ACTIVITY  
25 AREAS.—



1           “(1) DESIGNATION.—The Attorney General,  
2           after consultation with the Governors of appropriate  
3           States, may designate as a high-intensity interstate  
4           gang activity area, any specified area that is located  
5           within 1 or more States, based on the criteria for  
6           designation under paragraph (4).

7           “(2) ASSISTANCE.—In order to provide Federal  
8           assistance to high-intensity interstate gang activity  
9           areas, the Attorney General shall—

10                   “(A) establish a criminal street gang en-  
11                   forcement team in each high-intensity interstate  
12                   gang activity area, consisting of Federal, State,  
13                   and local law enforcement authorities, for the  
14                   coordinated investigation, disruption, apprehen-  
15                   sion, and prosecution of criminal street gangs  
16                   and offenders in such area;

17                   “(B) direct the reassignment or detailing  
18                   from any Federal department or agency (sub-  
19                   ject to the approval of the head of that depart-  
20                   ment or agency, in the case of a department or  
21                   agency other than the Department of Justice)  
22                   of personnel to each criminal street gang en-  
23                   forcement team established under subparagraph  
24                   (A);



1           “(C) provide all necessary funding for the  
2           operation of such criminal street gang enforce-  
3           ment teams in each high-intensity interstate  
4           gang activity area; and

5           “(D) provide all necessary funding for na-  
6           tional and regional meetings of criminal street  
7           gang enforcement teams, and all other related  
8           organizations, as needed, to ensure effective op-  
9           eration of such teams through the sharing of  
10          intelligence, best practices, and for any other  
11          related purpose.

12          “(3) COMPOSITION OF CRIMINAL STREET GANG  
13          ENFORCEMENT TEAMS.—Each criminal street gang  
14          enforcement team established pursuant to paragraph  
15          (2)(A) shall consist of agents and officers, where  
16          feasible, from—

17                 “(A) the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

18                 “(B) the Drug Enforcement Administra-  
19                 tion;

20                 “(C) the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Fire-  
21                 arms, and Explosives;

22                 “(D) the United States Marshals Service;

23                 “(E) the Directorate of Border and Trans-  
24                 portation Security of the Department of Home-  
25                 land Security;



1           “(F) the Department of Housing and  
2           Urban Development;

3           “(G) State and local law enforcement; and

4           “(H) Federal, State, and local prosecutors.

5           “(4) CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION.—In consid-  
6           ering an area for designation as a high-intensity  
7           interstate gang activity area under this section, the  
8           Attorney General shall consider—

9           “(A) the current and predicted levels of  
10          gang crime activity in the area;

11          “(B) the extent to which violent crime in  
12          the area appears to be related to criminal street  
13          gang activity, such as drug trafficking, murder,  
14          robbery, assault, carjacking, arson, kidnapping,  
15          extortion, and other criminal activity;

16          “(C) the extent to which State and local  
17          law enforcement agencies have committed re-  
18          sources to—

19                 “(i) respond to the gang crime prob-  
20                 lem; and

21                 “(ii) participate in a criminal street  
22                 gang enforcement team;

23                 “(D) the extent to which a significant in-  
24                 crease in the allocation of Federal resources



1 would enhance local response to the gang crime  
 2 activities in the area; and

3 “(E) any other criteria that the Attorney  
 4 General considers to be appropriate.

5 “(c) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEYS.—  
 6 The Attorney General is authorized to hire not more than  
 7 94 additional Assistant United States attorneys to carry  
 8 out the provisions of this section. Each attorney hired  
 9 under this subsection shall be assigned to a high-intensity  
 10 interstate gang activity area.

11 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
 12 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be  
 13 necessary to carry out this section.”.

14 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO STATE AND LOCAL PROSECUTORS TO**  
 15 **COMBAT VIOLENT CRIME AND TO PROTECT**  
 16 **WITNESSES AND VICTIMS OF CRIMES.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 31702 of the Violent  
 18 Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42  
 19 U.S.C. 13862) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the  
 21 end;

22 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at  
 23 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

25 “(5) to hire additional prosecutors to—



1           “(A) allow more cases to be prosecuted;  
2           and

3           “(B) reduce backlogs;

4           “(6) to fund technology, equipment, and train-  
5           ing for prosecutors and law enforcement in order to  
6           increase accurate identification of gang members  
7           and violent offenders, and to maintain databases  
8           with such information to facilitate coordination  
9           among law enforcement and prosecutors; and

10          “(7) to fund technology, equipment, and train-  
11          ing for prosecutors to increase the accurate identi-  
12          fication and successful prosecution of young violent  
13          offenders.”.

14          (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
15          31707 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement  
16          Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13867) is amended to read as  
17          follows:

18          **“SEC. 31707. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19          “‘There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
20          this subtitle \$20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008  
21          through 2012 .’”.



1 **SEC. 4. GRANTS TO STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
2 **TO ESTABLISH STATE-WIDE CRIME PREVEN-**  
3 **TION DATABASES.**

4 Subtitle I of title XXXII of the Violent Crime Control  
5 and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 is amended by adding  
6 at the end the following new section:

7 **“SEC. 320936. GRANTS TO STATE AND LOCAL LAW EN-**  
8 **FORCEMENT TO ESTABLISH STATE-WIDE**  
9 **CRIME PREVENTION DATABASES.**

10 “(a) **AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.**—The Office of  
11 Justice Programs of the Department of Justice shall  
12 award grants, in accordance with such regulations as the  
13 Attorney General may prescribe, to State and local pro-  
14 grams designed to establish a State-wide database to track  
15 criminals, arrests, prosecutions, and convictions.

16 “(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There  
17 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be  
18 necessary to carry out this section.”.

○